

# the OPTIMIST

We are proud to say, this may be the last issue of the Optimist. Now, as we have done many times before, we are asking you to write a letter. And there is a deadline. It must be received by December 17, 1979 - just two weeks from now!

In our last newsletter in April, we urged you to participate in the public workshops held by Sequoia National Park to hear your suggestions for the management of Mineral King. Your response was great, and by now all of you who were able to participate should have received a booklet from the Planning Team proposing 4 different alternatives for the management of Mineral King. These alternatives were developed as a result of the suggestions made at the workshops. The team is now asking us to respond by selecting our preference or combination of preferences from among these plans. The Park will present a final plan to Congress in November 1980. If you did not receive the booklet, here is a brief summary.

Alternative A: The valley would remain as it is aside from slight upgrading of Cold Spring Campground. Cabins would remain for the lifetime of the owner. Private lands at Silver City would be purchased, granting options of life tenancy or 25 years for the owner. Unpaved portions of the road would be oiled.

Alternative B: Essentially the same as A except for the following: At Mineral King, a backcountry quota to be established based on trail size and lake shore capacities. Sawtooth Trail to be rerouted. Parking areas to be redesigned and capacities established based on backcountry quotas. Sunny Point reopened as a walk-in campground for backpackers going to or coming from backcountry. Loop trails established from Vista Point (Endurance Hill) to points of interest in valley. Ranger station replaced in same location. Cold Spring campground rehabilitated. Silver City to remain much as it is, with certain upgrading of Park facilities. Atwell Mill campground removed from the sequoia grove. Improved information to be provided at Hammond.

Alternative C: Same of B except for the following: At Mineral King, permittee cabin leases not to be renewed as they expire in upper valley, the sites to be restored to natural conditions. At Faculty Flat, road to be terminated with major trailhead development plus relocated pack station, loop trails to points of interest, day-use and long-term parking areas and picnic areas. Cabins to be phased out as necessary to provide space. At Silver City, the development to be reorganized to improve circulation and foster vegetation growth. Private land acquired, using selected cabins for housing, lodging, hostels and programs. Park Service housing and maintenance areas to be established. At Cabin Cove, cabins to remain for lifetime of owner. At Atwell Mill, campground to be phased out as sites become available in Silver City. Regeneration of sequoia grove.

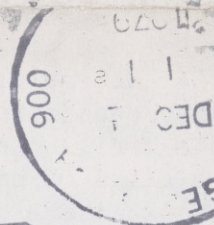
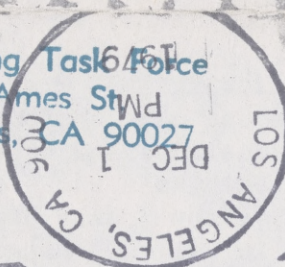
Alternative D: Same as C except for the following: At Mineral King, termination of road at small day parking area near Vista Point. Backcountry trail quotas increased and backcountry intensively managed. Cross-country ski trails developed. At Faculty Flat, cabins to be replaced with new ranger station, long-term parking, pack station and picnic area. Cold Spring Campground expanded to Mosquito Creek. Walk-in camps established. At Silver City, a range of year-round accommodations and services provided to facilitate winter use. At Cabin Cove, cabins phased out and replaced with picnic areas. Selected trees cut to provide view. Cross country ski trails developed. Plowing of road in winter to facilitate access to be considered.

THIS IS URGENT. GET YOUR LETTER OFF TO THE PARK TODAY! YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE, AS YOU HAVE BEFORE. THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST CHANCE TO INFLUENCE THE FUTURE OF MINERAL KING. REMEMBER, YOUR REPLY MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 17! Send it to: Mineral King Planning Team, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Ash Mountain, Three Rivers, Ca. 93271. (209) 565-3341.

Sawtooth Sally only has time to say, "Get those letter in, my dears. And meet me in back of the ranger station, George Peters, you old rascal, you."



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RETURN TO SENDER  
NOT DELIVERABLE AS ADDRESSED  
UNABLE TO FORWARD

We still have Mineral King T-shirts and sweat shirts and will soon have a new batch of patches. Prices include tax and postage.

Adult size T-shirts: Extra Large, Large, Medium and Small are \$5.50.

Children's sizes: 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 are \$4.00.

Little Guy's sizes: 3, 4, 6 and 8 ("Mineral King" in big red letters. Not enough room for picture.) \$3.50.

Sweat Shirts: (Adult sizes only) Extra Large, Large, Medium and Small are \$12.50.

Patches: \$1.25

Send orders to: Jean Koch, 2125 Ames St., Los Angeles, Ca. 90027. Make checks payable to Mineral King Task Force.

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Optimist edited by Jean Koch (213) 664-6902

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I see a bit of space left, so I'll take this opportunity to thank all of you who have worked so hard and so long. Your voice was heard. And it's been worth every hour you spent. You and your children and their children will be able to enjoy an unspoiled Mineral King for many years to come. Thanks again.

*Jean*

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